

# StAC Meeting

March 22, Santa Clara Convention  
Center

# StAC Meeting

- Attendees
  - Donald Smith, Eclipse Foundation
  - Martin Oberhuber, Wind River
  - Doug Gaff, Wind River
  - Doug Shaefer, Wind River
  - Darin Swanson, IBM
  - Markus Knauer, Innoopract
  - Dave Carver, Star
  - Chris Anisczyk, Code 9
  - Boris Bokowski, IBM
  - David Williams, IBM
  - Raghu Srinivasan, Oracle
  - Patt Huff, IBM
  - Tom Watson, IBM
  - Brian Fitzpatrick, Sybase
  - Wayne Beation, Eclipse Foundation
  - Gunnar Wagenknecht
  - Mike Milinkovich, Eclipse Foundation
  - Anthony Hunter, IBM
  - Wenfeng Li, Actuate
  - Andrew Overholt, Red Hat
  - Neil Hauge, Oracle
  - John Arthorne, IBM
  - Michael Scharf, Wind River
  - Oisin Hurley, Progress Software

# Agenda

- Architecture Council Topics
- StAC Plans for 2009 / 2010
- Intended Content and Audience for T&P and Road Map

# Minutes

- Please refer to Martin Oberhuber's slides later in this slide deck
- Discussion of Eclipse Brand as IDE
  - JDT placement under different project?
  - Efforts to add brands – I.e., Pulsar, Equinox
  - Conventional wisdom that changing brand perception takes decades
  - Projects are ultimately responsible for their own branding
  - Important to reach technical decision makers at companies
  - “What's visible” cements a brand – i.e., packages on download page.
  - Apache and Eclipse in similar situations regarding brand and community responsible to exert change

# Minutes

- Role of the Councils
  - Board -> Strategic Direction of the Foundation
  - Councils -> Strategic Direction of the Technology
  - Historical challenges with control over project (intentionally there is none) and history of changing focus of some councils (i.e., Architecture Council)
  - Could eclipse benefit with more “despots” in key technology areas?

# Minutes

- Improving the release train
  - Focus on immediate results, not creating “to do lists”.
  - Need to get Packages on Milestone releases sooner in 2010, but will have one for M6 Galileo – earlier package milestones may help testing
  - Common Build Infrastructure will also make it easier – potential for automatic package builds by consulting common build projects
  - Community lead efforts may be only option for good x-project testing with budget constraints

# Minutes

- Improving the release train votes:
  - Community testing framework/groundwork (9 votes)
    - Empower community to report to the right people (Fedora example)
    - Better tracking and reporting, bug reporting links
  - Bug contest for cross project testing (1 vote)
  - Bounty program (1 vote)
  - Improved media/download (12 votes)
    - New and Noteworthy will be key
    - Webinar tools may be key

# Minutes

- GIT/DCVS
  - IT does not have infinite resources – need to decide what to drop for GIT
  - Other communities transitioning to GIT CVS->Subversion->GIT (i.e., Apache, Gnome)
  - Need at least 2 key “old school” projects to join the pitch for GIT support before next steps can be considered.



These slides provided by Martin  
Oberhuber, Chair of the Architecture  
Council for basis of discussion

# StAC EclipseCon 2009: AC Update

Martin Oberhuber  
Eclipse Architecture Council Chair  
Wind River

# Architecture of Eclipse: beyond the code



# The Role of the Councils

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## Board makes (strategic) decisions

- Councils and EMO implement those decisions...
  - PC: Release train
  - AC: Dev.Process Execution, Mentorship, Guidelines
- ... and feed back input to the Board
  - AC: Overall Architecture, Community, Process Requirements
  - RC: Support of the Brand, Direction beyond individual vendors

## Does this actually work?

- EMO performs bulk of the work
- Communication Board → Councils: Board is **not** transparent
- Lack of participation on councils

# Arch. Review: Brand

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Is our Brand still right?

Is influence on the Brand OK?

- Release train, process, press, high-profile project quality

Risk: **Bloat**, trying to be too broad

- Continued [focus on Release train](#), “right” set of rules
- Cross-project testing, performance, interaction / UI design
- Improved first-user / downloader experience (media)

Risk: **not innovative**

- Process and infrastructure to support innovation: [git / DVCS](#)
- Better highlight / market new stuff “Eclipse is not just an IDE”

## Eclipse Brand

Vendor-neutral, Legally safe, Established, Quality, Predictable



# Arch. Review: Commercial Friendly

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Are our licenses / IP Process still commercial friendly?

- EPL successful outside Eclipse
- EPL + EDL dual-licensing was a success
- [246945](#): LGPL and p2 / external download interactions
  - Pain for projects, limitation of progress
  - Does this pain lead to rebuilding technology under EPL?
  - Generally more relevant for release train (→ brand) than for commercial projects adopting Eclipse technology
- **AC want progress updates on IP Advisory Council**
  - Parallel IP for mature projects

## Commercial-friendly Licenses

Open Source, EPL, EDL; IP Due Diligence, License Compatibility

# Arch. Review: Process

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## Is it still “just enough process”?

- From a Mentor’s point, yes – but what about Projects?
  - Why is [Egit](#) still in limbo state?
- [261408](#): Microprojects - website setup is painful
  - Will Common Builder take off?
  - Is PDE Build simple and adequate? (cf. Apache Maven)
  - Best tools that money can buy? (Q9 on [the Joel test](#))
- [257706](#): DVCS would help (e4, larger patch contributions)
  - What’s needed to move forward?
- [250317](#): Disseminating information from EMO down

## Process

Board, Councils, EMO, PMCs, Projects, Mentors, Committers, Community  
**Open, Transparent, Predictable**; IP Due Diligence; **Platform** (Compatibility)  
Phases, Reviews, Bugzilla, CVS, News, Wiki, Mailing, Planet, **Release train**

# Arch Review: Platform Technologies

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## Are our Platform Technologies still adequate?

- Sufficient participation in e4?
- [261544](#): Technical debt: Deprecation Policies (code + docs!)
- [262907](#): Reference Platforms
- [167144](#): Re-using vs duplicating common “small” things
- Common Guidelines for “Coding Properly”
  - Need lean APIs with clear recommended ways of doing things
  - Create infrastructure to better support sharing
    - Infrastructure (Orbit, p2,...), timelines, ...
  - Who has the time for investing in this?

## Horizontal (Platform) Technology

OSGi / Equinox, SWT, RCP / Workbench, i18n, accessibility, EMF, e4



# Arch. Review: Projects and Community

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## Project Diversity

- How to handle duplication?
  - IAM vs m2eclipse; Subversive vs Subclipse;
- How to bring related technologies together?
  - Bjorn and Mike “know-it-all”; PMCs as champions?
  - Auto-generate dependency / relationship diagrams
    - semantic web, Kohonen feature maps
  - Half-automated / manual diagrams (tagging)

## Are our social interactions still good?

- Planet, mail, wiki, EclipseCon... it *is* a Community to be proud
- [256660](#): Bugzilla grievance handling for users, bugs in limbo

**Highly diverse projects and Community**

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In General, Eclipse is doing great.  
We have a very strong brand, great community and process.  
Let's work together doing the right things to keep and advance it.

Questions?

**THANKS!**

The rest of these slides were not discussed as we ran out of time and are tabled for future discussions.

# StAC (from Board Proposal)

- Role
  - Solicit and gather strategic input from multiple sources
  - Synthesize data
  - Advise PMCs/Board/EMO on trends, threats and opportunities

# T&P and Road Map

- Role of T&P and Road Map
- Intended Audience

# Question 1 – Road Map

- What does your organization think the Road Map should be?
- How will your organization contribute resources to make that vision of the Road Map happen?

## Notes:

- Road Map could be roll up of upcoming project release plans. Tactical “what features are coming” and marketing oriented “T&P”.
- Created by EMO/Projects by scrubbing project release information – ideally gathered from Project Leads.